

ROBERTO D'ANGIO (1309 – 1343), King of Naples - Pattern of organization in 14th century continental government. The basic structure was organized by ROBERTO's father CARLO II D'ANGIO, who was King of Naples from 1285 to 1309; he inherited it from his own father CARLO I D'ANGIO (King of Naples, 1268 – 1285), brother of the French King LOUIS IX D'ANJOU, who brought the model with him from France when he invaded in the 1260s. The model travelled to Hungary when CARLO II left Naples to be crowned King of Hungary in 1302.

Virtually all governing was a function that fell to one of two sets of OFFICERS.

SEVEN GREAT OFFICERS OF THE CROWN and the OFFICERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD

SEVEN GREAT OFFICERS OF THE CROWN is a structure that recurs throughout many European Royal Houses for many centuries and is, in fact, found somewhat reflected in the Cabinet of the President of the U.S. They were servants of the State, not the king, and their positions were a type of intermediate rank between the sovereign and his subjects. In theory, they were not removable at the king's pleasure and they continued in office after the death or removal of a monarch. The source used to construct this discussion states that all 7 OFFICES held jurisdiction throughout the kingdom in one place while in another specifically states that four of the OFFICES had jurisdiction throughout the Kingdom while the remaining three held it within the palace only. All SEVEN OFFICERS, in public events, were clad in purple and, except the GRAND SENESCHAL, sat at the king's side; the SENESCHAL, though holding the pre-eminent post, occupied the less-honorable place "at the king's feet" – however just what that phrase means is unclear? Did he sit on the floor? Highly unlikely. More likely was that the king and 6 OFFICERS sat at the highest platform level while the SENESCHAL sat one level down. The OFFICERS were the ones that held the canopy of state over the monarch's head while making a progress through the streets and they were charged with organizing the farewell banquets and triumphal entries of their king into towns everywhere as well as greeted ambassadors and princes with due pomp – a seemingly trivial job but one that could win or lose hearts, wars and lives.

The OFFICES are:

Jurisdiction throughout kingdom:

- GRAND or HIGH CONSTABLE (GRAN CONNESTABILE): *Commander of the Army* (land forces); with the High Admiral would constitute the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- GRAND or HIGH ADMIRABLE (GRANDE AMMIRAGLIO): *Commander of the Navy*; hereditary in the Marzano family in Naples
- GRAND CHANCELLOR (GRAN CANCELLIERE): 2nd after the King in judicial council matters, responsible for appointment of all public notaries (odd that this was not a function of the PROTONOTARY), and registrar of University of Naples, used state seals and collected fees for their use.
- LOGOTHETE or GRAND JUSTICAR (LOGOTECA): Spokesman of the monarch, highest office under Federico I; the position was often held in combination with that of Protonotary and the combined duties are similar to our *Attorney General*.

Jurisdiction within palace:

- GRAND CHAMBERLAIN (GRAN CIAMBELLANO, GRAN CAMERARIO OR GRAN CAMERLENGO): head of the treasury and royal chamber, keeper of the royal plate, jewels and apparel. Similar to our *Secretary of the Treasury*, sometimes the office was divided between the treasury of the kingdom “del Tesoro” and the treasury of the monarch “del sovrano.” *Ciambellano* was the Anglo-Saxon form while *Camerlengo* is the Frankish or German form. Supervised the following Great Offices of the Household: Gentleman of the Chamber, the Master of the Robes, the Captain of the Porters, the Usher of the Ambassadors, the Chamberlain in Ordinary and sometimes with Librarian and Chief Physician.
- GRAND PROTHONOTARY or PROTONOTARY (GRAN PROTONOTARIO): chief of the royal secretaries who numbered 60 or more plus the 4 household notaries. Responsible for drafting of the king’s correspondence, drawing up of privileges and administrative acts and the compilation of laws, control of the chancery but not the state seals which fell to the chancellor. Fees for the use of required seals on official documents generated significant income. Became hereditary in the Gaetani family from the 15th century.
- GRAND SENESCHAL (GRAN SINISCALCO): master of the royal household “generally” – preeminent office at court, responsible for protocol, fêtes, processions, ceremonies and the like. Equivalent to the *U.S. Chief of Protocol*.

OFFICERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Subdivided into GREAT OFFICES and MINOR OFFICES. The ranks of the OFFICERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD were not only filled by those employed directly by the king but also those indirectly employed through the cavalry, the “chace” which may have been the royal parks and hunting grounds, and the armory.

GREAT OFFICERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD: were usually under the direct authority of 1 of the 3 GREAT OFFICERS OF THE CROWN that may have had jurisdiction within the confines of the palace.

GRAND CHAMBERLAIN supervised:

- *Gentleman of the Chamber*
- *Master of the Robes*
- *Captain of the Porters*
- *Usher of the Ambassadors*
- *Chamberlain in Ordinary*
- *Librarian* – later removed from Grand Chamberlain (to become independent?)
- *Proto-Medico* or *Chief Physician* at Naples: exercised authority as president of a licensing “court” over all other physicians of the kingdom

GRAND PROTONOTARY supervised:

- *Notary of the Household*
- *Notary of the Treasury*

- *Notary Sealer of the king's letters*
- *Notary Composer of the Edicts*
- *Royal Secretaries* (numbering 60 or more)

GRAND SENESCHAL supervised, later “took the oaths at the hands of the king only”:

- *Seneschal*
- *Chief Baker*
- *Chief Butler*
- *Chief Carver*

GREAT OFFICES OF THE HOUSEHOLD not affiliated with any of the GREAT OFFICES OF THE CROWN included:

- *Master of the Royal Chapel*: exercised independent jurisdiction over all household clergy.
- *Proto-Chirurgo*: granted licenses to all professors of pharmacy or surgery “in any of its branches” and regulated apothecary shops and their prices. Not usually considered to be under the authority of the GRAND CHAMBERLAIN. Logically, these functions may have originally been with the *Proto-Medico* while under the GRAND CHAMBERLAIN but as the demands of the office grew, they were split between the offices of the *Proto-Medico* and *Proto-Chirurgo* and removed from the GRAND CHAMBERLAIN’S authority.

MINOR OFFICES OF THE HOUSEHOLD Divided into gentleman and servants.

- Gentleman of the Bed-Chamber: the “first” of the Minor Offices.

Other OFFICES included the

- Personal Guards of the King and
- Personal Attendants to the King

Public Officers “of the Crown” included Judges and Magistrates; these held “public” offices rather than “HOUSEHOLD” OFFICES and could be termed one of the *Minor Offices of the Crown* though that is an imperfect analogy (and a group not found named in that manner anywhere). They were subordinate to the SEVEN GREAT OFFICES in general, and the Judges and Magistrates were probably directly supervised by the LOGOTHETE however this is confused as the LOGOTHETE was also the PROTONOTARY usually. Removable “at pleasure” – but at who’s pleasure was not given – the LOGOTHETE’s or the kings?

The ROYAL “COURT” was made up of the SEVEN GREAT OFFICERS OF THE CROWN and the OFFICERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD. It was called the *comitatus* (*Latin*) and its members were the *comites* (courtiers) or COUNTS. When absent from government COUNTS appointed deputies to act in their stead called VISCOUNTS.

Count palatine is a title confusingly defined in the following manner: “In the provinces and the cities there were also counts, thus called because chosen from amongst the principal courtiers, those of the household were called counts palatine.”

Historical Life of Joanna of Sicily, pp 206-208.